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Editorial Notes and Comment

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PRESIDENT WILSON has returned from France, where he has done the greatest work from a political standpoint for the world that has ever been done by any man. We believe that his success was due largely to the fact that he was supported by the prayers of Christian people in this country. There are those who say that he has a more difficult task in getting things into good working order in this country, in order that America may be brought to a settled state of peace and prosperity, and so be fitted to exert its needed influence over the rest of the world. He needs the continued prayers of God's people. Shall we not pray that he may have all needed wisdom and grace given him, and that he may be successful in this great undertaking?

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MILLENNIALISTS use some queer arguments in favor of the early approach of the millennium. Here is the latest we have seen. A writer in the Sunday-school Times tells of a certain Mr. Aaronsohn who claims to have discovered wild wheat in Palestine. It is expected that by crossing this with the cultivated kinds, the production will be greatly increased. The writer continues: "The prophets foretell the removal of the curse from the earth. Then will be a fertility which man can hardly imagine now. The great word, 'The desert shall blossom as the rose,' has in it the promise and potency of renewal for all the desert regions of the globe. In Psalm 67 we are told, 'Then shall the earth yield her increase.' Other Scriptures tell the same story. Men see already a beginning of this supernatural fruitfulness of the earth in the renewal of the fertility of Palestine. The wild wheat discovered by Mr. Aaronsohn was found to have a wide distribution vertically, from five hundred feet below the Mediterranean in the vicinity of the Jabbok up to six thousand three hundred feet above sea level, on Mount Hermon, in the zone of alpine plants. Immense areas of dry soil, rocky and shallow, which this plant prefers, are found in Algeria, Tunis, Syria, Egypt, Turkestan, and our Southwest. The millennial agriculture of Palestine and all these regions may astonish the generations of the future."

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HOW to get people to go to church is a question often asked. Christ gave the answer nearly nineteen hundred years ago: "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." The Church that lifts up Christ will have no trouble in drawing and holding people. They may not make as much noise as some others, but the results will be better. When a church, by the preaching of the pastor and the lives of the people, lift up Christ, there will be no lack of drawing power.

Rev. James Power Smith, D.D.

On July 4th Dr. Smith celebrated his eighty-second birthday. It had been announced to the Presbyterian Ministers' Association of Richmond, Va., that he is about to leave Richmond, which has been his home for twenty-seven years, in order to make his home with his children in Charlotte and Greensboro, N. C.

The Association, desiring to express its high esteem for him and its appreciation of his life and work, adopted the following:

"JAMES POWER SMITH,

"Minister of the Presbyterian Church U. S.

"Doctor Divinitateis.

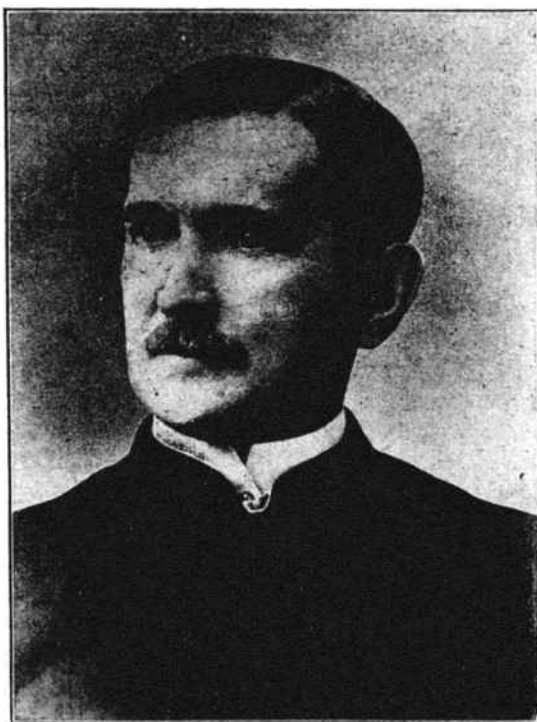
"Dean of the Presbyterian Ministers' Association, Richmond, Va.

"Ex-Editor 'Central Presbyterian.'

"Sole remaining officer of General Stonewall Jackson's staff, C. S. A.

"Chaplain R. E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans, C. S. A. A friend of every old soldier who wore the gray.

"Voluntary chaplain of the Virginia Penitentiary for a score of years.



JAMES POWER SMITH

"Chairman for twenty years of the Presbyterian Committee of Publication.

"In addition to other pastorates, pastor for nineteen years of the church at Fredericksburg, Va.

"In his forty-ninth year as stated clerk of the Synod of Virginia.

"Author of Personal Reminiscences of Lieutenant-General Thomas J. Jackson, C. S. A.

"The scholar, the Christian gentleman, the philanthropist.

"One whom God has honored in the keeping of His beautiful promise: 'With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.'

"One whom men, women and little children call their friend, and whom they delight to reverence and honor.

"In this fraternal gathering at Mizpah Presbyterian Church on this day, June 30th, in his eighty-second birthday season, we his brother ministers unite in sincere and loving purpose to bear him our affectionate congratulations and wish for him yet more years of 'grace, mercy and peace' from the good hand of God, rejoicing that so great and so good a man has been through the years given to us as a personal friend, counsellor and fellow-helper in the kingdom and service of our divine Lord.

J. CALVIN STEWART,
"Chairman of Committee."

MOVING pictures attract great crowds in all cities and towns. In some cases they are very valuable in giving instruction. But in the vast majority of cases they are intended only for amusement, and usually it is a very low order of amusement. Here is what the largest producer of films in this country says: "Nearly all the comedy films we make are based on the triangle of the old-fashioned French farce—the wife, the husband and the husband's false friend. In fact, if we attempt anything else, it doesn't work out." This is certainly not the kind of amusement that ought to be given to the young of our country. It will necessarily impress them with a very low idea of marital relations, and will destroy any thought of sacredness in them. People young and old need amusement. In some way Christian people ought to furnish it. We would like to have some suggestions as to how this can be done.

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WAR orphans are often brought to the attention of the public, and not half enough is done in this line. But it should be remembered that the orphans made by the war are not the only ones that need attention and help. We in this country have been very much blessed by the comparatively small death loss from the war. But there are many deaths from natural causes, and during the past year especially from influenza. It is said that in Virginia alone there are at least ten thousand orphan children, for whom no adequate provision has been made. This is no doubt equally true of other States. In addition to the work being done by the many orphans' homes, the Children's Home Society is doing a great work. This society does not conduct an orphanage, but places children in good homes, where, in many cases, they are legally adopted. It has placed in this way about three thousand children. These children are gathered from all over the State, and just now the society is trying to raise money enough to buy and equip a suitable home where they can be taken care of until families can be found who will take them. It usually is not necessary to keep them but a short time. To supply this needed equipment about \$150,000 is required. A campaign is now being conducted to secure that amount. The society is meeting with gratifying success, but a large part of this amount is still to be raised. It is said that the average cost of receiving and taking care of the child and getting it into a good home, where it will be no farther expense to the society is about \$150. This is a good investment.

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Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.

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One today is worth two tomorrows.